

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 7, line 15, as follows:

Because the respective supporting members 23 and 23' fixed to the right and left walls of the case lower 13 have the same structure, a description is hereinafter made on the supporting member 23 fixed to the right wall of the case lower 13.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 8, line 5, as follows:

Further, in the main part 30, formed is a notch 34 with a half arch shape from a bottom end portion to a center portion of the main part 30. A step bolt 35 with a step for mounting the support member 23 on the case lower 13 is inserted into an upper portion of the notch 34. A pair of projections 36, 36 opposing to each other to a certain extent are integrally formed near the inserted step bolt 35. There are formed two pairs of circular holes 37, 37; 38, 38 in the main part 30, each pair being bilaterally symmetrical and each formed with a predetermined diameter at areas around the notch 34.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 9, line 4, as follows:

A hole 41 with a predetermined diameter corresponding to the step bolt 35 is formed through the right wall of the case lower 13. It should be noted that another hole 41 is shown on the left wall of the case lower 13 in FIG. 2. A pair of positioning pins 42, 42 are integrally formed on the right wall of the case lower 13 above the hole 41 such that the positioning pins 42, 42 project outward from the wall. The positioning pins 42, 42 facilitate to position the support member 23 when secured to the case lower 13. Moreover, the diameter and the resistant strength of the positioning pins 42, 42 are decided such that the larger impact than that of the predetermined value applied to the selection lever 12 or the instrument panel 28 adjacent to the shift operation device 11 can cause shearing force against the support member 23 to break the positioning pins 42, 42 when the case lower 13 is fixed to the vehicle body via the support member 23. It should be

noted that there is formed a locking part (not shown) on the inside surface of the case lower 13 corresponding to the hole 41. The locking part engages with the bolt head 43 of the step bolt 35 to lock a rotation of the step bolt 35.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 2, as follows:

The support member 23 is secured between the right wall of the case lower 13 and the second mounting bracket 27 such that the front of the support member 23 is oriented rightwardly. That is, the back of the molded plastic part 31 of the support member 23 is disposed so as to be opposed to the right wall of the case lower 13, the positioning pins 42, 42 are inserted into the insertion holes 40 and 40, and the step bolt 35 projecting outwardly from the hole 41 is inserted into the hole 39 of the support member 23 and then the corresponding nut 44 is tightened with a predetermined tightening torque. Then, as shown in FIG. 1, the support member 23 is fixed to the vehicle body using the bolt 46, which is inserted into a hole 33 for the step bolt 35 and screwed into a nut 45, with the top face of the contact surface part 32 being in contact with the bottom surface of the second mounting bracket 27.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 7, as follows:

The main part 47, as a plate extending vertically, is provided with the contact surface part 49 extending horizontally at the top end of the main part 47 by bending. Holes 50 and 50, each having a predetermined diameter corresponding to the step bolt 35, are formed through the contact surface part 49 at a predetermined interval. Thus, support rigidity for bolting the support member 24 to the second mounting bracket 27 is secured. Although there is no necessity of rib for securing rigidity of the bent portion between the main part 47 and the contact surface part 49, reinforcement means such as ribbing and beading may be adopted as required.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 11, line 7, as follows:

In case of a vehicle crash, a passenger may be bounced forwardly, and the larger impact load than that of the predetermined value may be applied to the select lever 12 or the instrument panel 28 adjacent to the shift operation device 11, thereby causing shearing force on the right and left step bolts 35 and positioning pins 42, 42 against the support members 23 and 23'. The shearing force breaks the positioning pins 42, 42, and the plastic filled in the holes 37, 37; 38, 38. Thus, the molded plastic part 31 moves downwardly along the notch 34, breaking away from the main part 30, with the step bolt 35 remaining tightened. Even if the load is concentrated on a portion around the hole 39 under the step bolt 35, the projections 36 and 36 reinforce the molded plastic part 31 around the hole 39, thereby preventing the molded plastic part 31 filled in the notch 34 from tearing.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 12, line 18, as follows:

Two holes 56 with the predetermined diameters corresponding to the step bolts 52 are formed through the front wall of the case lower 13. It should be noted that only one of the holes 56 is shown in FIG. 7. There are formed locking parts (not shown) on the inside surface of the case lower 13 corresponding to the respective holes 56. The locking part engages with the bolt head 57 of the step bolt 52 to lock the rotation of the step bolt 52.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 15, line 8, as follows:

Meanwhile, the shearing force occurs on the step bolts 52 and 52 against the support member 24, thereby breaking the plastic filled in the holes 54. Thus, the molded plastic part 48 moves downwardly along the notches 51 and 51, breaking away from the main part 47, with the step bolts 52 and 52 remaining tightened. Even if the load is concentrated on the portions around the holes 55 and 55 under the step bolts 52 and 52, the projections 53 and 53 reinforce the molded plastic part 48 around the holes 55 and 55, thereby preventing the molded plastic part 48 filled in the notches 51 and 51 from tearing.